



Are There Other Ways to Help?

If you cannot commit to being a foster parent, there are other ways that you can change the life of a child. People just like you are helping foster children build brighter futures by serving as mentors, advocates, and volunteers. You can baby-sit for a foster family; assist in recruiting new homes by spreading the word about the need for caring families to your friends, associates or civic groups; and if you are a business person, you can hire a foster teen or provide discounts for services and products to foster families. The possibilities to get involved are endless.

If you would like to put your caring and compassion for children to work to make a real difference in their lives, we encourage you to contact us. Contact the Office of Community Services TODAY.

1-866-249-0559

www.fostercare.la.gov

Become a Foster Parent.

Your Love Will Make All the Difference in Their World.



This public document was printed at a total cost of \$2,636.19. (50,000) were published in this first printing at a cost of \$2,636.19. The total cost of all printings of this document, including reprints is \$2,636.19. This document was published for DSS, Office of Community Services, 627 North 4th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802 by LSU Procurement Auxiliary Services, Baton Rouge, LA 70803 to educate the public on foster care under special exception by the Department of Administration. This material was printed in accordance with standards for printing by state agencies established in R.S. 43:31.



**Over 5,000 Louisiana
Children in Foster Care**

**Each ONE Needs a Safe, Stable,
Loving Home Like Yours**

**today's
fostercare**

**Your Love Will Make All the Difference
in Their World**





Make a Difference in Their World

Louisiana's Children Need Our Help

Every day, children in Louisiana are abandoned, neglected, abused or simply victims of circumstances that separate them from their families. Today, there is a critical need for more certified foster families in Louisiana and that's where you can help. Right near your home is a child who needs foster care. By becoming a foster parent, YOU can make a difference in their world.

Foster Care... More Rewarding Than You Can Imagine.

Every child deserves a safe, stable, loving home, just like yours. Many people think incorrectly that you need to have a certain income, education or be married to become a foster parent. But while there are some requirements, what matters most are your parenting skills, a sincere desire to love a foster child and the ambition to help a child grow.

Fostering a child is one of life's most rewarding and memorable experiences. By sharing your love and support, you can help a child have a better life.

"I had 40 children come through my home over the past 30 years and today's foster care's the best it's ever been. Every holiday is just a joy when they visit. For me being a foster parent has created my legacy of love."

— Ms. Valteau

The length of stay for foster care varies from a few days to many months. Children needing foster care range from infancy to 21 years old. Some foster parents choose to provide short-term care, while others prefer long-term placements. In many cases foster parents have gone on to assume guardianship or adopt the child placed in their home. No matter the length of stay, what matters most is your ability to provide a safe, stable, loving home!



Fostering Youth & Teens... Unexpected Rewards

Your guidance and support can help create bonds that young adults really need. By mentoring youth you are helping create a strong foundation for all future relationships this young adult will form, and nothing is more important than that. The interaction between you and teens can bring you unexpected rewards of appreciation, respect, friendship and love. In fact, many foster parents maintain lifelong relationships with the teens they foster.

Become A Foster/Adoptive Parent Today

Foster parenting can be one of life's most rewarding experiences. But with all the rewards, there are challenges, too. The Louisiana Office of Community Services provides the resources and training services to help you meet the requirements of becoming a certified foster parent. Once certified, we use a careful screening process to help find the child best suited for your home and abilities. You will also receive a daily board rate that reimburses you for the cost of each child's expenses for board, clothing and other needs. To ensure your success, and keep your skills up-to-date our team of experienced professionals will provide ongoing guidance, regularly scheduled training courses and support groups. You can apply to be a foster parent in Louisiana if you are:

- At least 21 years of age
- Single or married
- Financially stable (able to meet own family's needs)
- In good physical, emotional and mental health
- Living in a home with adequate space in the home for an additional child
- Able to pass state and federal criminal clearances
- Willing/able to attend pre-service training
- Willing/able to participate in a home study process

If you are interested in being a Foster/Adoptive Parent please call the Office of Community Services at 866-249-0559 for more information and to attend an orientation session.